

Bill Conrad
Vice Mayor
*Chair Community
Development & Housing
Committee*

VIA FACSIMILE
(202) 616-9937

January 16, 2002

*Vice Chair Financial
Policy Committee*

*Member Economic
Development Committee
Intergovernmental
Relations Committee*

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division, Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Ste. 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

1010 Tenth Street
Suite 6200
P.O. Box 642
Modesto, CA 95353
209/571-5169
209/495-1976 Cellular

I am writing this letter to the courts in support of the settlement in the case of US v. Microsoft. This letter is being sent in accordance with the Tunney Act which allows the public to offer comments on matter such as these.

I would like to offer the courts my opinion in support of the settlement as a technology consumer. It is my opinion that, should the settlement be rejected and this case continue to drag on, it will be the consumers who face the largest burden.

e-mail:
bconrad@ci.modesto.ca.us


Right now, I can go to my local computer store and buy a copy of Windows XP for just under \$100. Regardless of what Microsoft's competitors say, that is a very reasonable price for such a complex operating system. If this case drags on, Microsoft is forced to incur higher legal costs, and we see the technology industry stagnate even further, the costs passed on to consumers will steadily increase.

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The courts should also note that the tenets of the current agreement are established in such a way that there will be minimal harm passed along to the consumer with regard to pricing. Should this settlement be rejected and even more restraints are placed upon Microsoft, I believe it is safe to say that there would be significant potential for higher prices to be a result.

I say again—please accept this settlement so we, as consumers, are not forced to pay higher prices for various technology products.

Sincerely,


Bill Conrad, Vice Mayor
City of Modesto

Citizens First!

MTC-00031451_0001